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PAGE 01 STATE 021974

70

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TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

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SALT

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GENEVA FOR CSCE

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. THIS WEEK'S PAPERS MOSTLY STRESSED DOMESTIC NEWS; TUESDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGED LATINOS POSTPONE

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PAGE 02 STATE 021974

MINISTERIAL TALK; WEDNESDAY FRONTPAGED KISSINGER HOPEFUL ON

MIDEAST, NYTIMES FRONTPAGED ACCURACY OF LASER-GUIDED ARTILLERY SHELLS, BALTSUN FRONTPAGED SOVIETS SAY DETENTE GOAL UNALTERED.

1A. TUESDAY WASHPOST INSIDE REPORTED SS-18 BELIEVED TO BE SINGLE-WARHEAD TYPE. WEDNESDAY PAPERS HAD BRIEFS ON SCC MEETING. TODAY'S NYTIMES HAS FORD BRIEFS SALT TEAM, ALSO MIDDLETON REPORTS SCHLESINGER ON NEW WAR THREATS, PLUS SCIENTIST SAYS US FAILS TO SPUR TECHNICAL EXCHANGE WITH SOVIET, CITING PHI BETA KAPPA LECTURE BY LEWIS BRANSCOMB EX-DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS AT MEETING OF AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

2. SCC. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES HAD GENEVA UPI HEADED, US AND SOVIET EXCHANGE INQUIRIES AT MISSILE TALKS, UPI SAYING US ASKED SOVIET UNION TO EXPLAIN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND

MISSILE-TESTING PROGRAMS THAT MIGHT BE VIOLATING AGREEMENTS REACHED IN SALT TALKS. UPI ADDED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN WASHINGTON SAID RUSSIANS ASKED US ABOUT CANVAS COVERS PLACED OVER CERTAIN AMERICAN MISSILE SILOS IN POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF THE 1972 PACT, UPI ADDING COMPLAINTS WERE PRESENTED AT A MEETING OF SCC. UPI QUOTED ONE AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYING: WE WILL BRING UP A VARIETY OF QUESTIONS IF ONLY TO KEEP THE RUSSIANS ON THEIR TOES. ACCORDING UPI, AMERICAN SPOKESMEN SAID THERE WOULD BE NO STATEMENT ON DETAILS OF THE MEETINGS.

2A. WASHPOST HAD BRIEF UNATTRIBUTED GENEVA ITEM REPORTING US ASKED SOVIET UNION TO EXPLAIN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND MISSILE-TESTING PROGRAMS THAT MAY BE VIOLATING EARLIER AGREEMENTS AT AN SCC MEETING. ITEM HAS SAME STATEMENT AS ABOVE ON SOVIET QUERIES.

2B. WEDNESDAY WASHSTAR HAD ITEM, HEADED, SALT: WHAT'S UP? ITEM SAID: WITH TALKS TO LIMIT STRATEGIC ARMS DUE TO RESUME FRIDAY AFTER FOUR-MONTH RECESS, US HAS LET IT BE KNOWN IT IS ASKING SOVIETS TO EXPLAIN WHAT THEY'RE BUILDING AT THEIR MISSILE SITES AND WHY THEY'RE TESTING MOBILE MISSILES. ITEM ADDS KEEP-EM-ON-TOES STATEMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 021974

MENTIONED ABOVE. ITEM ADDS 1972 ACCORDS FORBID BUILDING OF NEW MISSILE SILOS AND SEVERAL SENATORS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THIS MAY BE WHAT THE RUSSIANS ARE DOING.

3. SALT. THURSDAY NYTIMES GELB WASHINGTON REPORTS FORD INSTRUCTED AMERICAN NEGOTIATORS TO WORK OUT A NUCLEAR-ARMS ACCORD WITH SOVIET UNION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRINCIPLES HE AGREED TO WITH BREZHNEV. ACCORDING ADMINIS-

TRATION OFFICIALS, SAYS GELB, PRESIDENT HAS REJECTED DEMANDS FROM CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS THAT THE PROJECTED CEILINGS ON OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR ARMS BE LOWERED EVEN BEFORE THEY ARE WRITTEN INTO A FORMAL GENEVA AGREEMENT, BUT HAS AGREED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON REDUCING THE CEILINGS SHOULD BEGIN SOON AFTER THE NEW ACCORD HAS BEEN APPROVED. GELB ADDS KISSINGER IS SAID TO BELIEVE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA WILL BE DIFFICULT AND THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE COMPLICATED BY ATTEMPTS TO LOWER THE VLADIVOSTOK CEILINGS BEFORE ANY FINAL ACCORD. FORD HELD NSC MEETING WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON INCLUDING AMERICAN SALT DELEGATION TO ISSUE HIS FINAL INSTRUCTIONS. ACCORDING OFFICIALS, THREE AREAS WERE COVERED: DEFINITIONS OF WHAT KINDS OF MISSILES AND BOMBERS ARE TO BE INCLUDED UNDER THE CEILINGS; VERIFICATION ISSUES, PARTICULARLY ON NUMBER OF MISSILES EQUIPPED WITH MIRVS; ISSUES OF HOW TO DEAL WITH DEVELOPMENTS THAT COULD TIP THE NUCLEAR BALANCE THAT ARE NOT COVERED BY THE

NEW AGREEMENT. ALEXIS JOHNSON SAID IN INTERVIEW: I HOPE AND EXPECT THAT SOVIET DELEGATION IS APPROACHING TASK IN SAME SPIRIT AS WE ARE OF TRANSLATING VLADIVOSTOK UNDERSTANDING INTO A FORMAL AGREEMENT. ACCORDING GELB, ONE OFFICIAL SAID US WOULD TRY TO INCORPORATE LANGUAGE IN FINAL ACCORD SPECIFYING THAT TALKS ON REDUCTION AND WEAPONS MODERNIZATION BEGIN PROMPTLY AFTER NEW ACCORD IS RATIFIED. OFFICIALS ALSO SAID INSTRUCTIONS DIDN'T STATE WHETHER ACCORD WILL BE TREATY OR EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT REQUIRING HOUSE-SENATE APPROVAL; THIS WILL BE TACTICAL JUDGMENT DEPENDING ON HOW LIKELY SENATE APPROVAL IS.

4. SCHLESINGER. THURSDAY NYTIMES MIDDLETON WASHINGTON REPORTED SCHLESINGER SPEAKING BEFORE CONFERENCE AT CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AT GEORGETOWN SAID UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 021974

THAT WORLD NO LONGER REGARDED AMERICAN MILITARY POWER AS "AWESOME", THAT TRENDS ARE CLEARLY AGAINST THE MAINTENANCE OF A WORLDWIDE MILITARY BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO SUPER-POWERS, AND DECLINE OF US MILITARY POWER MIGHT RESULT IN TROUBLES BREAKING OUT IN A NUMBER OF AREAS, ALSO VOICED CONCERN OVER SECURITY OF OVERSEAS SUPPLIES FOR THE US AND NATO ALLIES. MIDDLESTON ALSO REPORTS MOORER'S WARNING THAT NATO'S RELATIVE STRENGTH IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN WAS LOWER THAN AT ANY PREVIOUS TIME, REFLECTING PENTAGON FEARS ABOUT CONGRESS AND FUTURE OF NATO.

5. COMMENT ON REPUDIATION OF 1972 TRADE AGREEMENT. EXAMINATION OF 31 EDITORIALS SHOWS LARGE NUMBER CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF DETENTE AND ALSO CALLING IT A MISTAKE FOR CONGRESS TO HAVE TIED SOVIET EMIGRATION TO TRADE,

THESE INCLUDING HEARST PAPERS, CHICAGO NEWS, ATLANTA CONSTITUTION. ONLY 2 NEWSPAPERS REMARKED THEY SAW NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS: PHILA INQUIRER, KANSAS CITY TIMES.

5A. SEVERAL PAPERS DO EXPECT TRADE TO CONTINUE TO GROW AND WASHPOST SAID WE MUST EXPAND OUR ECONOMIC TIES WITH COMMUNISTS, ALSO BOSTON GLOBE. CONGRESSIONAL REVERSAL OF STEVENSON AMENDMENT ON CREDIT WAS URGED BY NYTIMES. NEWSDAY SAID TRADE IS LESS IMPORTANT THAN TRYING TO RESTORE A SENSE OF JOINT PURPOSE BETWEEN SUPERPOWERS; CHICAGO TRIBUNE URGED EMPHASIS ON DIPLOMACY TO MAKE DETENTE A REALITY. A FEW, HOWEVER, SET LOW VALUE ON TRADE WITH RUSSIA, SCRIPPS-HOWARD AND INDIANAPOLIS STAR OPPOSING ITS SUBSIDIZATION; ST. LOUIS GLOBE-DEMOCRAT OPPOSING BUILDUP OF RUSSIAN POWER WITH OUR TECHNOLOGY.

5B. SOME PAPERS ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT TRADE REPUDIATION MAY HARM PROSPECTS OF SALT TALKS AND MIDEAST PEACE, INCLUDING MIAMI HERALD, WASHSTAR, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH. LESS DANGER TO SALT WAS SEEN BY NYTIMES, WHICH FEELS SUPERPOWERS HAVE STRONG MUTUAL INTEREST ON THAT; TIMES EXPRESSED MORE CONCERN OVER IMPACT ON MBFR AND MIDEAST. WASHPOST SAID WE MUST NOT LET TRADE FLAP STOP SALT NEGOTIATIONS. KISSINGER

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